

On U.S. visa and immigration policy

“The Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides that every individual has the right to leave any country, including his/her own, and the right to return. The United States welcomes any reforms that allow Cubans to depart from and return to their country freely.

The United States and Cuba, under the Migration Accords of 1994 and 1995, stated their commitment that migration between the two countries would be safe, legal, and orderly. U.S. visa policy, governed by the Immigration and Nationality Act, remains unchanged. Cuban citizens still require a valid U.S. visa or entry authorization to enter the United States.

We cannot predict if the change in exit visa requirements will lead to a change in migration patterns from Cuba. We continue to encourage people not to risk their lives by undertaking dangerous sea journeys, and we note that most countries still require that Cuban citizens have entry visas.

The United States is working to ensure that mechanisms are in place to address any increase in visa applications or undocumented migration, and urges Cuban families to use legal family reunification and other immigration mechanisms already in place.”